

## WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

**10:00 a.m. – Noon, Tuesday July 21, 2015**

**Meeting summary, Association Meeting**

**Lutheran Community Services**

**4040 South 188<sup>th</sup> Street, SeaTac WA 98188, Third Floor**

### **Attending:**

Scott Hanauer, Community Youth Services  
Charlotte Booth, Institute for Family Development  
Erin Larson, Navos  
Carol Almero, Friends of Youth  
Tom Rembiesa, Youthville  
Rod Johnson, CFSF  
Kristen Zinsky, CCS  
Jeff Judy, Olive Crest  
Jeff Clare, YFC  
Rose Quinby, YMCA  
Joanne Stimson, CFSF  
Linda Thomas, CCS  
Brian Carroll, Secret Harbor  
Greg Dootson, LCSNW  
Todd McNeal, Hand in Hand  
Chuck Cole, Janus Youth Programs  
Laurie Lippold, (phone)  
Kim Zacher (phone)  
Paulette Caswell, (phone)  
Linda Conchi, WACF

### **Call to order: Tom**

Tom went around the table and did a “Check-in” to see what people had on their minds and wanted to discuss during the meeting:

Jeff Clare: Conversation around priorities for the year

Erin Larson: Excited to see how new leadership progresses

Jeff Judy: Wanted to know back story on increase in parent reimbursement rate in the budget

Todd McNeal: Communication to foster families, (families getting sent to collections over supposed overpayments)

Carol Almero: For Friends of Youth, more forecasting on the BRS, would like to know potential numbers of foster kids

Charlotte Booth: Will cover in her division update

Scott Hanauer: Legislative update and division updates

Greg Dootson: How do we want to market and communicate the association

Linda Thomas: Engaging legislators in rate restoration for community based foster care, continue to celebrate successes for BRS and support other divisions

Rod Johnson: FFTA debrief

Kristen Zinsky: Plans for the upcoming year for the CPA contract for rate restoration

Rose Quinby: The implementation of WISE and how it's impacting BRS and CPA foster care placements

Chuck Cole: CRC's being transferred to Dept. of Commerce and what kind of partnership they'll have

Joanne Stimson: Reiterate CPA rate restoration, need for continuum of care for children

Laurie Lippold: Importance of association staying on top of the RSP that went out and healthcare reform

Kim Zacher: CPA rate restoration, legislative updates, FHS agenda

### **Financial report: Kim**

The bank balance as of July 10<sup>th</sup>, is approx. \$42,000. That included money for SafeCare training (\$20,000) and there is approx. \$7,000 in outstanding checks, including the WA Nonprofits conference and admin fees. The balance will be approx. \$35,000 after those checks clear. Kim talked about some of the challenges of changing signers on the bank account. The bank told us that they had initially setup the wrong type of account and we needed to close the old account and reopen a new one. We were also told that we have to change the Articles of Incorporation prior to updating the account. Another lesson learned; the treasurer changeover should not take place at the end of June.

Brian suggested that in the following year we consider a national association membership. The two mentioned were:

Alliance for Children & Families - \$750

National Organization of State Associations for Children (NOSAC)

Tom indicated he had reviewed the organizational membership qualifications for NOSAC membership and there is a requirement that member-organizations have a paid CEO . The CEO is required to be an active member of NOSAC.

Kim also reported on the 2014 – 2015 final budget and the 2015 – 2016 draft budget. On the 2015 – 2016 draft budget, the marketing materials was increased from \$100 to \$1,000, Kim added a line for “potential other expenses,” in case we need tax services, and added that we might consider joining a national association. The budgets were approved as amended.

### **Tom listed agencies that have paid their dues:**

Community Family Services Foundation

Youth for Christ, Westsound

Youth for Christ, Tacoma

Community Youth Services

Casey Family

Catholic Community Services

Comprehensive Mental Health

Excelsior

Navos

Secret Harbor

Olive Crest

Comprehensive Life Resources  
Bethany Christian Services  
Institute for Family Health

Kim reported that reminders for dues go out (though Quickbooks) at the end of July. It is also mentioned at the August association meeting and then if by the end of August members have still not paid, a notice goes out that their membership has been dropped.

Charlotte made a motion to extend the Carey Forward dues waiver for a second year instead of only offering it to new members. The motion was carried.

### **Legislative Report/BRS Vendor Rate Increase Debrief**

Brian reported that we received a vendor rate increase for BRS of 3% the 1<sup>st</sup> of July this year, and 3% the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, 2016. FPSS was successful in negotiating rates with Children's Administration aside from a legislative process. Charlotte added that what CA did not do was change the practice of only paying half rate for travel. For the next legislative session the focus will be on CPA, or foster care in general as our primary legislative agenda around rates. It's time to get legislators out to your agency to meet you, see what you do, so that when you're having contact with them during the legislative session, they know who you are and what the issues are. It is very important to make contact with them during the off season.

Around the BRS rate increase, thank your legislators; Senator Kevin Ranker, Senator Jim Hargrove, Senator Andy Hill, Representative Ruth Kagi, Representative Eric Pettigrew.

Rose added that the BRS rate increase is an overall success. She said that Seth suggested that as we move into our ask for this legislative session, we want to thank, as well as add on to that CPA increases for traditional foster care. We need to continue to represent all three divisions as a whole. The success was a combination of a lot of individual citizen's e-mails from our organizations, our foster parents, our CEO's, our board members. We want to replicate this moving forward. An improvement area would be to help support Brian by having representatives of WACF at more hearings. It was discussed how advocacy mentoring would be very helpful to get more members to Olympia. Advocacy mentoring will be on the August association meeting agenda.

Rose also added that BRS forecasting needs to be added back on to the legislative agenda for this year.

### **Family-Based Foster Treatment Association Debrief (FFTA)**

- Brian's agency is long-time members and people in his agency will be going to their conference in Denver in the first week in August. It's an outstanding conference.
- FFTA hoping to create a chapter in the Pacific NW
- At the presentation they talked mainly about treatment foster care, not traditional foster care
- There was a big push to get accredited
- There was agreement that it didn't make sense for WACF to become an FFTA member

### **CA/WACF Meeting Recap (not on the agenda)**

Charlotte reported the implementation of the 4E waiver is not working well. Foster care numbers are up not down, there is no money in the reinvestment fund. The Feds are open to renegotiating the waiver.

Brian added that WA is #6 in the country for the number of kids going into foster care.

Charlotte also reported that they talked about FAR in the meeting as well. They asked for additional workers to expand statewide but the budget didn't give it to them. The budget did give them a bunch of extra CPS workers, although not FAR. They are going to continue the expansion of FAR using the new FTE's they got. CA recognizes structural problems of FAR. FPSS will go to CA about implementation issues of FAR with a specific list of questions. One problem with FAR is that when they send kids to the mental health center, they don't make a referral. There's no communication between the community agencies and FAR. Charlotte suggested that we need to go to legislators to ask that they get data on FAR.

Also discussed at the CA meeting was licensing issues, they talked about DLR not being very responsive, and we asked for data about the placement crisis for foster care. There was not a lot of answer on the Disclaimer Statement.

### **Division Updates**

CPA Division – Joanne thanked CA for their support of rate restoration for CPA's and asked for continued support. In their CPA meeting they strategized ways to talk to legislators. Joanne also spoke with Tacoma Placement Desk and got their support for having a legislator come and sit in on their work. They were very open to that. Joanne thinks they have seen some advantages of the CA meeting, with regards to licensing.

Tom answered Jeff Judy's check-in question about foster parent increases in the budget. It was the Foster Parents Association of WA State (FPAWS) settlement.

BRS Division – Rose reported that at their next BRS meeting they will address the out-of-state youth issue and talk about how to get them back to Washington when possible. Rose said that she thinks it would be really beneficial to look at how WISE has been implemented so far in the counties where it has been rolled out. Is the implementation being used in the best interest of the youth and families we serve? It would be a good idea to have a conversation with Doug and some RSN's regarding WISE and BRS.

Kim added that they've seen a major decrease in BRS in-home referrals. Where WISE has maybe been problematic on the child welfare side, Kim's agency has seen more families be eligible for WISE.

FPSS Division – Charlotte already covered FAR under **CA/WACF Meeting Recap**. Tom reported that the e-mail with the application for the SafeCare TOT program has gone out to eight agencies with certified coaches in Washington State. So far, we have responses from five.

Adjourned 12:00pm

**Next Association meeting: August 18th at LCS**